

REMARKS

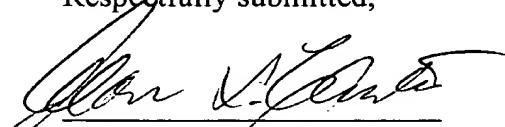
This is a timely *second* response to the final Office Action, in which claims 1-40 were examined. Applicant notes, with appreciation, that claims 1-35, 39 and 40 were allowed, and that claim 38 was said to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 36 and 37 were rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 36 and 37 are now canceled. Claim 38 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of parent claim 36, as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 38 should be allowed.

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims (1-35 and 38-40) are in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,


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APR 25 2003

Date

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

38. (Amended) Injection molding apparatus [according to claim 36, wherein the at least one actuator] comprising:

an array of injection nozzles, each nozzle having a melt channel and a valve pin movable within the melt channel, each valve pin having a driven portion and a tip end that controls melt flow through a mold gate;

a melt distribution manifold in fluid communication with the array of injection nozzles; and

an actuating assembly for displacing the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles, comprising at least one actuator and a common linkage element driven by the actuator and linked to the driven portions of all of the valve pins of the array of injection nozzles to move the valve pins in unison, wherein the common linkage element moves along the same direction as the valve pins and the at least one actuator is located under the manifold and is centrally located among the injection nozzles.